



**P.O. Box 2207 206 South Main Street Greenville SC 29602**

## **NEWS UPDATE**

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### **CITY CODE ADMINISTRATOR WORKS TO DETERMINE SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY OF POLYCRAFT DEMOLITION PLAN**

#### **Background**

On Monday afternoon, August 11, the Hughes submitted to City officials a plan for the demolition of the Polycraft building and the stabilization, if possible, of the adjoining wall. The plan included details for the demolition of the Polycraft and Arcite buildings and the emergency work to safeguard, if possible, the South Main Street buildings. The plan was delivered to structural engineer Tad Boland and to Jack Zorn, the engineer named by Mrs. Surratt. The City asked that all comments on the plan be received by the end of business day, Wednesday, August 13. No comments were received from Mr. Zorn.

On Thursday August 14, citing increased destabilization of the Polycraft building and its possible dangerous impact on the adjacent properties, City Fire Marshal Larry Godfrey secured the Surratt and Mitchell buildings located on South Main Street. The following day, Mr. Mitchell and Mrs. Surratt informed the City that they would no longer resist any attempts to demolish the Arcite properties, including the Polycraft Building, as long as they incurred no injuries or costs in the process; an action they had previously opposed.

#### **Today**

Building Code Administrator Steve Landrith continues to expedite the review of the demolition plans for the Polycraft building, exploring every means to determine the safest and most efficient method to implement the work.

First, Mr. Landrith contacts engineer Jack Zorn to ask that Mr. Zorn supply him with any information that could provide critical insight into the demolition plan. Specifically, Mr. Landrith asks Mr. Zorn to submit:

- (1) His comments based on his review of the demolition plan submitted by the Hughes;
- (2) A copy of his letter that the City understands has been sent to Mrs. Surratt regarding Mr. Zorn's assessment of the Arcite, Surratt, and Mitchell properties; and
- (3) Any additional information that could affect the safety of workers involved in the Polycraft demolition process.

This is the **second attempt** by the City Code Administrator to receive comments from Mr. Zorn regarding the demolition plans submitted by the Hughes. It is also the second time that Mr. Landrith requests a copy of any correspondence that could clarify the conditions of the South Main Streets properties. The City is currently waiting to receive the requested information.

Next, Mr. Landrith makes arrangements with independent structural engineer, Tad Boland, to enter the secured Surratt building under supervised conditions and under a safety watch. Mr. Boland is asked to enter the Surratt property as a means to determine whether it is possible to safely stabilize the building and to look for additional options for the safe demolition of the adjoining Arcite properties. Mr. Landrith schedules a time on Tuesday (tomorrow) for Mr. Boland to do a similar assessment of the Mitchell building.

The City notifies the engineers representing the Hughes and Mrs. Surratt and offers them the opportunity to accompany Mr. Boland into the buildings and provide their professional assessments and recommendations.

City Code Administrator Steve Landrith anticipates having a completed review of the demolition plan by close of business day Tuesday (tomorrow).

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